

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1 – 32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) A ~~printer management server~~ distributed print management server that is connected to a plurality of printers through a network, divides print data into a plurality of print jobs and stores the print jobs, wherein:

~~said printer management server~~ the distributed print management server:

identifies one of ~~said~~ the plurality of print jobs as one print job to be printed;

provides ~~said~~ a distributed print start notification to ~~all~~ or at least some of ~~said~~ the plurality of printers;

selects one printer from among the plurality of printers that have issued an acquisition request for ~~said~~ the one print job, ~~the one~~ a printer ~~that is being~~ most appropriate for ~~said~~ the one print job ~~based~~ on ~~the basis of~~ printing capabilities and status information of the plurality of printers; and

assigns ~~said~~ the one print job to ~~said~~ one printer ~~by sending print data of the one print job to the one printer and sending a print wait notification to other printers of the plurality of printers~~.

34. (New) The distributed print management server according to claim 33, wherein the distributed print management server selects the one printer from among the

plurality of printers based on which printer can complete the print job in a shortest time from warm-up.